

IN THE CLAIMS

B1 1. (currently amended) A data management system for storages, suitable for a system having a host and a plurality of storages connected to a data transfer network, comprising:

a converter facility for converting a ~~block (unity)~~ unit of ~~semantically significant~~ data specific to an operating system (OS) on said host into a unity unit of ~~semantically significant data common to said data transfer network~~ said storages; and

at a management facility for managing a readout of ~~said unity of data from one of said storages upon reception of the unit name of said data from said host, said facility being provided apart from said host~~ said unit of data common to said storages which responds to a unit name of data received from said host from one of said storages upon reception of the unit name of said data from said host,

at wherein each of said storages includes a storage device for storing data and a controller for allocating a data which is transferred through said data transfer network to a virtual space and storing said data allocated to the virtual space in said storage device.

at 2. (currently amended) A data management system according to claim 1, wherein: said ~~unity~~ unit of ~~semantically significant~~ data specific to said operating system is ~~comprised of~~ has an actual data section and a first control section for defining the type of data specific to said operating system,

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said converter facility considers the entire ~~unity~~unit as said actual data to add to said unity of data specific to said operating system a second control section created for managing the type of data and for being common to said ~~data transfer network~~ storages.

3. (currently amended) ~~A data management system according to claim 2,~~
wherein: said data transfer network is a storage area network.

4. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages suitable for a system having a host and a plurality of storages connected to a data transfer network, comprising:~~

~~a converter facility for converting files in a first format having a file format specific to an operating system on said host into files in a second format having a file format common to said data transfer network~~ said storages; and

~~a management facility for managing a readout of files in said second format which responds to a file name in said first format from one of said storages upon reception of file name in said first format operation request to said storages from said host, said facility being provided apart from said host~~

~~wherein each of said storages includes a storage device storing data and a controller for allocating a data which is transferred through said data transfer network to a virtual space and for storing said data allocated to the virtual space in said storage device.~~

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5. (currently amended) ~~A data management system according to claim 4,~~
wherein: said files in said first format is comprised of actual data section and a first
control section for defining the type of data specific to said operating system, and
wherein said converter facility considers said entire files in said first format as
said actual data to add to said files in said first format a second control section
created for managing the type of data and for being common to said ~~data transfer~~
~~network storages~~.

6. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages suitable~~
~~for a system having a plurality of storages and hosts connected to a data transfer~~
~~network, comprising:~~

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- a host for obtaining files from said storages;
- a server for managing files present apart from said host; and
- a converter facility for converting files of a format specific to an operating
system on said host into a generic format file having a format of significance
common to said storages data transfer network;

wherein said server manages the transmission of said files on said storages
to said host upon reception of access permission request from said host to said files
under the name of said common format file, and

wherein each of said storages includes a storage device storing data and a
controller for allocating a data which is transferred through said data transfer network
to a virtual space and for storing said data allocated to the virtual space in said
storage device.

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7. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages~~
according to claim 6, further comprising:

a storage for storing said common format files,

wherein: said server issues to said storage a staging request with a file operation ID added with respect to a file requested for said access permission, and ~~sends~~ sends said file operation ID on condition that any error occurs;

wherein said storage stages said file in accordance with said staging request and add said file operation ID to said file; and

wherein said host obtains said file by issuing a file operation request to said storage with said file operation ID added.

8. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages,~~
according to claim 7, wherein: said file operation ID is for use in the acknowledgment of access right of said host.

9. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages, suitable for a system having a plurality of storages and hosts connected to a data transfer network, comprising:~~

a host having a file system converting files in a file format specific to an operating system into files in a file format common on said ~~data transfer network~~ storages, and converting files in said common file format on said data transfer

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network into files in said file format specific to said operating system, and said host updating data in said file format specific to said operating system;

a management facility for managing a readout of a file common to said storages which responds to a file name and data received from said host from one of said storages upon reception of the file name of said data from said host; and

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a storage having a file storage area for storing files in a format common to said ~~data-transfer network~~ storages, a virtual space for retaining files that may be transmitted and received to and from said host or another storage and that is in said format common to said ~~data-transfer network~~ storages, as well as a storage controller for asynchronously allocating said file read out from said storage area to said virtual space to transmit to said host said file in said virtual space.

10. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages~~ according to claim 89, wherein: said data transfer network comprises a plurality of fibre switches having hosts and/or storage devices connected thereto and a storage area network for connecting these components.

11. (currently amended) ~~A data management system for storages~~ according to claim 9, wherein: said file in said file format specific to said operating system is comprised of actual data and a file control section for defining the file type thereof; and

wherein said file system considers said actual data plus said file control section as an actual data entirely to create another file control section common to

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Q ~~said storage area network~~ said storages, said file in said file format specific to said operating system being converted to a file in said file format common to ~~said storage area network~~ said storages by adding said another control section to said file in said file format specific to said operating system.
